

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS,
PERSONNEL GARAGE
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 35)
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks
Division)
VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
Saint Louis
Independent City
Missouri

HABS MO-1943-R
MO-1943-R

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, PERSONNEL GARAGE (BUILDING 35)

HABS No. MO-1943-R

- Location:** Building 35, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,
St. Louis, Missouri
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri
UTM Coordinates 16 7259015 E 9965946 N
- Date of Construction:** 1940
- Designer:** U.S. Veterans Administration (VA)
- Contractor:** Unknown
- Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Present Use:** Storage
- Significance:** The Personnel Garage was built as part of New Deal-era improvements to the U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks Division. The garage was built to hold personal automobiles owned by nurses who resided at the hospital in the nearby Nurses' Quarters 2 (Building 18), which was built in 1939.
- Project Information:** This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

Description:

The Personnel Garage (Building 35) is a one-story stucco-clad garage facility with an asphalt shed roof and replacement metal overhead doors. The structure of the building is composed of brick walls, wood rafters, and a steel center beam, but this structure is not visible on the exterior of the building as the entire exterior is covered in stucco. The shed roof overhangs slightly and has a wood cornice. The building has eighteen garage door bays on the building's east side, which is the facade. The north and south walls of the buildings are blank. The rear wall of the building appears to have originally had a series of windows, but they have been blocked in. On the north side of the building, the exterior features a small gabled cloth-and-metal awning supported by two metal poles and attached to the side of the building. The awning consists of a tube steel framework covered in blue cloth. Original construction drawings do not show this feature; it was added within the last ten years to shelter a bench that has been placed next to the north wall of the Personnel Garage. This awning may have been installed to provide an outdoor cigarette-smoking area at this site.

The interior consists of eighteen garage bays. The facade originally featured a series of paneled wood double garage doors, but these have been replaced by conventional metal overhead garage doors that clearly date to the last thirty years. The Personnel Garage is located across an asphalt drive from the west side of Nurses' Quarters 2 (Building 18) and is also close to Nurses' Quarters 1 (Building 3).

History:

The Personnel Garage (Building 35) was built in 1940 and was related to the 1939 construction of Nurses' Quarters 2 (Building 18), located immediately to the east. Nurses' Quarters 2 was a large apartment building that accommodated nurses who worked at the hospital.¹ The construction drawings for the Personnel Garage refer to the structure as an "18-stall garage for nurses."² Private automobile ownership proliferated in the late 1930s, and the garage was built to shelter the cars of the hospital's resident nurses. Note that the original building number for the Personnel Garage was 32. After 1950, the Flagpole was assigned building number 32, and the Personnel Garage was changed to building number 35.

The Personnel Garage was built of brick, with the brick walls covered with stucco on the building's exterior so it would match Nurses' Quarters 2 and the other stucco-clad buildings of the hospital campus. The exterior of the Personnel Garage also featured a

¹ U.S. Veterans Administration, *Nurses' Quarters, Building No. 18, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.*, 1939, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

² U.S. Veterans Administration, *Personnel Garage, Building No. 32, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.*, 1940, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

wood cornice and fascia, plus a series of wood four-leaf folding doors, with each door leaf having two recessed panels filled in with diagonal boards. The garage had a shed roof that was supported by a steel beam that ran through the center of the building, and a series of wood rafters.³

The Personnel Garage was used as an automobile garage for nurses residing in Nurses' Quarters 2 until these quarters were eliminated and Nurses' Quarters 2 was remodeled into an administrative building during the 1980s. After that, the Personnel Garage was converted to use as a general storage facility for the medical center, and it is still used for that purpose today.⁴ The building retains a stucco exterior, but within the past fifteen years the original wood folding garage doors have been replaced by standard metal overhead doors. An upcoming redevelopment of the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, involves demolishing several buildings and adding significant new construction on the campus. However, current redevelopment plans do not call for the demolition of the Personnel Garage in the near future.

Sources:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Construction drawing files for Building 35, 1939-2010. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

U.S. Veterans Administration. *Nurses' Quarters, Building No. 18, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.* 1939. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

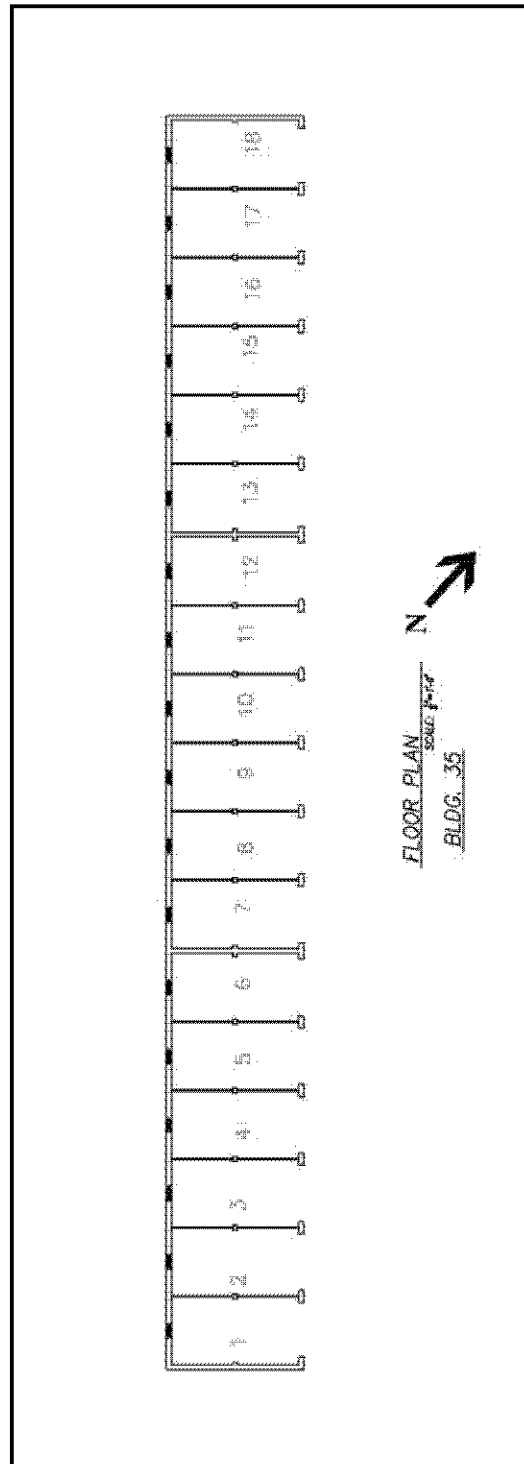
———. *Personnel Garage, Building No. 32, Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Mo.* 1940. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

Historians:

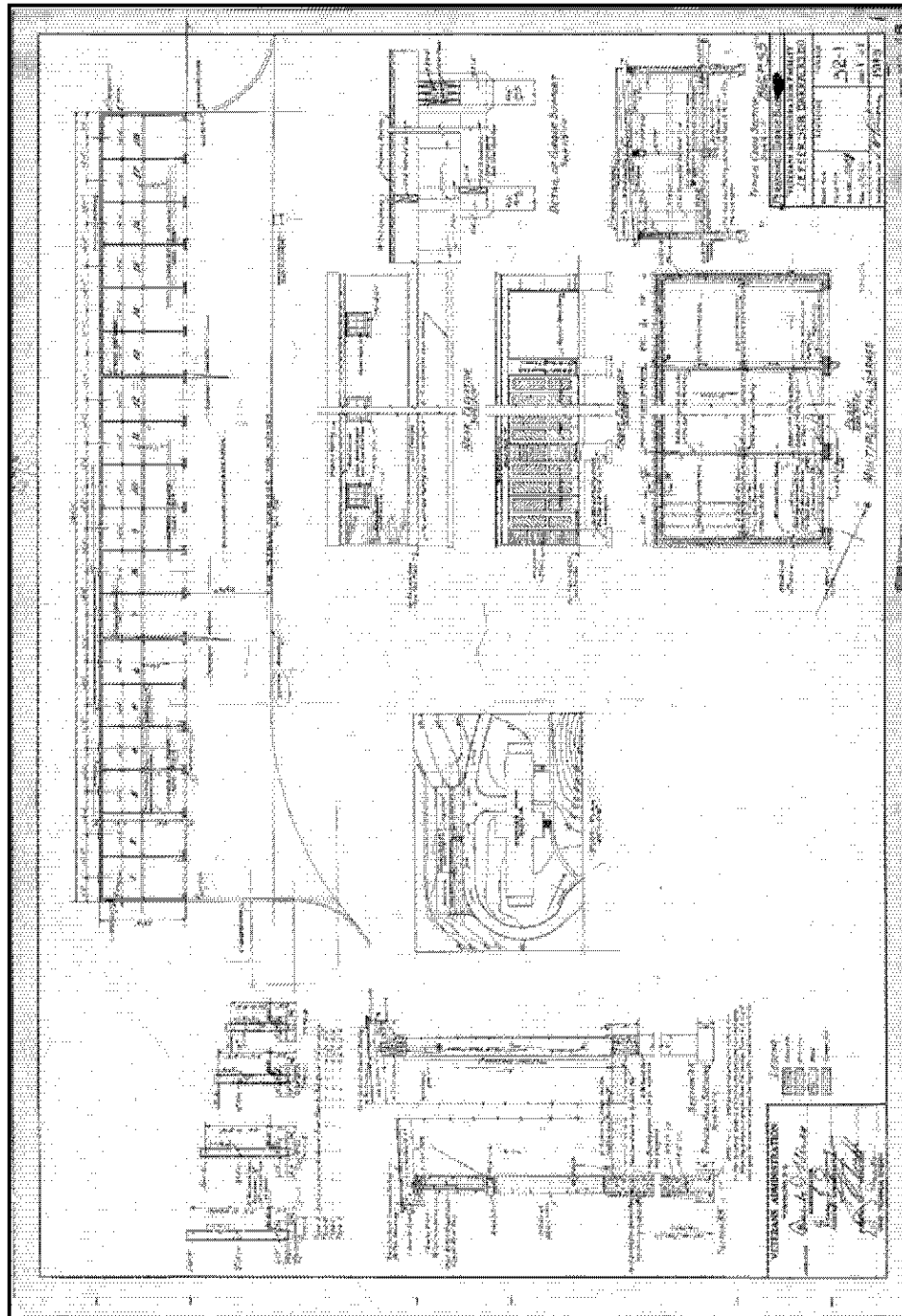
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³ Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction drawing files for Building 35, 1939-2010, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.



Personnel Garage (Building 35), current floor plan



Plans, elevations, and details for the Personnel Garage (Building 35), 1940